

11.02.2015

# THE HINDU

## Israel offers expertise to clean up Ganga

In an effort to deepen economic cooperation, Israel has offered its expertise and technological capabilities to India in its ambitious drive to clean up the Ganga.

A preliminary offer on this was made when Amit Lang, Director-General of the Ministry of Economy, Israel, met Indian officials on Tuesday.

Mr. Lang is leading a large trade delegation to continue talks on the Free Trade Agreement (FTA), which both countries had initiated in 2007, as well as expand cooperation in the field of water management, waste water treatment and more. Mr. Lang said the “agenda of the visit is mainly to introduce technologies to India.”

On the delay in concluding the FTA, Mr. Lang said, “We have few challenges on the Indian side.” “Israel has no real concerns... It is an open market,” he added. The Israeli delegation has submitted a proposal to the Indian side on the issue.

The FTA will be further discussed when External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj visits Israel in the next few months.

Israel has made significant technological advancement in desalination and drip irrigation with the world’s largest desalination plants and recycles 90 per cent of water for agricultural needs. India-Israel ties received a major boost when Prime Minister Narendra Modi met his Israeli counterpart Benjamin Netanyahu last September.

## Tea export volume, value decline



Tea exports declined in value and volume terms during January-November 2014, as compared to the same period in 2013, according to Union Commerce Ministry statistics.

Shipments dropped by 4.1 per cent to 185.68 million kg from 193.7 million kg during the period under reference. Earnings declined by 6.6 per cent to Rs.3,612.80 crore from Rs.3,866.90 crore. The unit price of Indian teas has dropped by 2.5 per cent. However, this seems to be part of a world trend in 2014.

Increased output by Kenya and Sri Lanka, two of India's arch rivals in the international tea arena, and the domestic crop loss in some of the best tea producing months are reasons behind this performance, sources said.

Till November, official statistics pegged India tea crop at 1,126.9 million kg, which was 16.3 million kg lower than 2013.

Barring the sub-Himalayan terrains in North Bengal, tea production has declined across the country due to adverse weather conditions. Led by Assam (which gives 50 per cent of the crop), the output is lower in Darjeeling, Tamil Nadu and Kerala. Meanwhile, the Tea Board took a delegation of tea exporters to Russia on Monday. Coinciding with an industrial exhibition, the visit includes meetings with Russian agriculture department officials, customs authorities, and individual companies.

Tea-tasting in a mall and networking workshops over *chai* have also been scheduled by the Moscow office of the Tea Board. Valentines Day is proposed to be marked with India tea. Russia, a 200-million kg market, is India's single-largest importer, buying about 35 million kg. But that too is under pressure.

## All about millets



Those who have reading the column surely must be having some idea about traditional seeds and how farmers across the country are doing their best to preserve and protect them.

The fact that there was quite a number of queries asking for more information and address of the farmers from different schools/ organisations and local clubs shows how valuable these farmers are for our future food security

From this week let us get some idea about millets and what millets really are and how they are better than your daily rice and wheat.

Around the world, traditional crops have lost out in the popularity stakes to 'exotic' crops, like wheat, rice, cabbage and lettuce.

The priority of our nation's food security programme has been promotion of rice and wheat.

As a result millets, the "miracle grains" have gradually disappeared from the farms and also our diets. People often think of these crops as something meant for the economically poor and hungry.

But these old crops have a lot to offer.

The cultural disconnect is too long and has made most of us unfamiliar with these grains. Not only are they often better adapted to local conditions - after all, they evolved in the local environment, together with all its climatic stresses, and pests and diseases - they are commonly more nutritious than the new upstarts.

### **Why millets?**

Millets are astonishingly low water consuming crops. As water grows scarcer and scarcer in the years of climate change, these farming systems put us on an excellent state of readiness.

The rainfall needed for crops like sorghum, pearl millet and finger millet is less than 25 per cent of that needed for sugarcane and banana, and 30 per cent that of rice. Do you know that we use 4,000 litres of water to grow one kg of rice while all millets grow without irrigation?

This can turn out to be a tremendous national gain especially in the ensuing decades of climate crisis. In a future where water and food crises stare us in the face, millets can become the food of security.

### **Health benefits**

Millets are amazing in their nutrition content. Each of the millets is three to five times nutritionally superior to the widely promoted rice and wheat in terms of proteins, minerals and vitamins. Each one of the millets has more fibre than rice and wheat. Some as much as fifty times that of rice. Isn't that quite a big figure?

Finger millet has thirty times more calcium than rice while every other millet has at least twice the amount of calcium compared to rice. In their Iron content, foxtail and little millet are so rich that rice is nowhere in the race.

While most of us seek a micronutrient such as beta carotene in pharmaceutical pills and capsules, millets offer it in abundant quantities.

### **Who all can consume millets?**

Anybody from new born babies to youngsters to adults to elderly people can consume millets. Consuming millets will support sustainable cropping practice whereby introducing diversity in our diets.

Millets are the only source of carbohydrates which does not have any starch in it and they release energy slowly allowing the improved stamina during long periods of intense activity.

### Multiple securities

Millet based farming systems have the potential to make agriculture non-chemical based, resulting in climate change compliant systems, even while offering healthier, more nutritious food and fodder, livelihood and ecological security. Majority of them are not affected by storage pests either.

Therefore, their need for pesticides is close to nil.

Millets can be consumed on a daily basis like any other grains. Chapattis & rice can be made up of millets and they can be used to make laddus, dosa, Idli, Uppuma, Murukku, Mixture etc.

Different types of millets are Finger millet, Little Millet, Foxtail Millet, Jowar/Sorghum, Pearl Millet, Proso Millet, and Barnyard Millets.

## ICRISAT to adopt W.G. mandals for research

**ALL FOR A COMMENDABLE YIELD**

**MANDALS CHOSEN FOR RESEARCH PROGRAMME**

**Nallajarla      Dwaraka Tirumala      Unguturu**

- 1 ICRISAT Scientists had collected soil samples and conducted demonstrations in W.G. last year as a prelude to the launch of crop research improvement programme
- 2 The programme will focus on pulses, maize, groundnut and paddy raised in semi-irrigated conditions
- 3 Farmers will get technical support from ICRISAT for upkeep of soil health, checking of pests and weeds & application of fertilisers
- 4 With ICRISAT's intervention, farmers will have access to mapping of soil and crop conditions through remote sensing

**HARNESSING INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

ICRISAT will form a strategic coalition for information, communication and capacity building among stakeholders by harnessing IT for drought mitigation in semi-arid tropics and to issue warnings on soil and crop health from time to time

**YALAMANCHILI SAILAKSHMI, Joint Director of Agriculture**

Hyderabad-based International Crops Research Institute for the Semi Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) has proposed to take up a crop research improvement programme in 10,000 acres

in the three upland mandals of West Godavari district. It will adopt the mandals for the purpose.

Joint Director of Agriculture Yalamanchili Sailakshmi on Tuesday said the department had chosen Nallajarla, Dwaraka Tirumala and Unguturu mandals for conducting the programme, which will have its focus on pulses, maize, groundnut and paddy raised in semi-irrigated conditions. ICRISAT is expected to commence research in these areas beginning next kharif.

Farmers from these areas will get technical support from ICRISAT under the programme for upkeep of soil health, checking of pests and weeds and application of fertilisers in their endeavour to ensure better yield.

Ms. Sailakshmi said ICRISAT would form a strategic coalition for information, communication and capacity building among stakeholders by harnessing Information Technology for drought mitigation in semi-arid tropics and to issue warnings on soil and crop health from time to time.

Barring minor technology-aided interventions such as kisan portals and e-messages through eSeva centres, farmers have so far been dependent on extension services by the Agriculture Department through Agriculture Officers and Agriculture Extension Officers at the mandal level.

With ICRISAT's intervention, farmers will have access to mapping of soil and crop conditions through remote sensing, thereby bridging knowledge gaps in technology, latest farm practices and markets. Incidentally, farmers have been seeking timely technical advice for improvement of paddy yield which has been hit by devastating pests like blight plant hopper (BPH).

ICRISAT's intervention is also warranted in weed control, which pushes up cultivation cost with the involvement of workers at high wages, she said.

## **1 lakh acres to come under mobile drip irrigation**

Agriculture Minister P. Pulla Rao today said that the State government would implement mobile drip irrigation system in one lakh acres of the district on a pilot basis before proceeding with the same through out the state. Mr Pulla Rao, who came to the district on a tour visited Venkatapuram, native village of Civil Supplies Minister Paritala Sunitha and announced that the government would set up an agricultural college in Ramagairi mandal . Speaking to the media, he said that the government would soon make funds to the tune of Rs. 675 crore available towards the input subsidy for the district.

## **Government mulling options to increase water cess**

The State government is exploring various means to mobilise additional resources including enhancing the water cess.

The cess at present is collected by Revenue Department and in the event of revision, water users associations will be collecting the same.

This will ensure judicious use of water and maintaining the resources, sources said. Meanwhile, the other departments which the government is planning to tap for additional revenues are Mines & Minerals and Forest Departments.

Finance Minister Yanamala Ramakrishnu who started the budget meetings with various departments has indicated that minor irrigation, agriculture and social sector would be given the top priority in the next budget.

All the promises in the manifesto will find place in the budget for 2015-16, he hinted.

### **Focus area**

Ruling out new taxation initiatives, government sources said focus would be on plugging the loop holes in tax collection through efficient management.

## **TS sets up panel on seasonal management of river water**

In the backdrop of the ongoing dispute with Andhra Pradesh over the utilisation of Krishna and Godavari water, Telangana has constituted a State-level Committee for Integrated Water Planning and Management to monitor the flow in all rivers in the State and to estimate availability of water in them on a seasonal basis. Principal Secretary of Irrigation S.K. Joshi stated in a GO issued on Tuesday that the committee would review and approve the seasonal operational plans for supply of water to various agencies according to allocations made by the government and priorities listed in the State Water Policy prepared by the concerned project authority.

Other functions of the committee include review and approval of adjustments to the seasonal operational plans submitted by the concerned project authorities on the basis of monitoring inflows and outflows into the major irrigation projects on a fortnightly basis, reviewing the performance of the seasonal operational plans and the efficiency in use of irrigation water and its agricultural opportunity costs on the basis of the water audit and benchmarking analysis at the end of the cropping seasons, and making recommendations for improvement.

It will also monitor the flood water flow in Godavari, Krishna and other rivers and plan steps to be taken for flood management during the flood period — from June to November.

It will advise the government on drafting guidelines/standard manuals on related issues.

The nine-member committee to be chaired by the Engineer-in-Chief (Irrigation) will meet during the second fortnight of June and October every year to finalise the Kharif and Rabi operational plans for supply of water to various agencies.

## **Farmers advised to sell coconut soon after harvest**

The Agro Market Intelligence and Business Promotion Centre (AMI&BPC), Tiruchi, has advised farmers to sell coconut and copra upon harvest immediately as prices are unlikely to increase after April.

In an advisory to farmers, the AMI&BPC said the price of coconut at the Pollachi market is expected to rule in the range of Rs. 14 to Rs. 15 per nut (550-600 grams in weight) during February-March. Copra price will be range from Rs. 94 to Rs. 96 a kg at Avalpoondurai regulated market.

Citing an econometric analysis of coconut and copra prices over the past 15 years in Pollachi and 14 years in Avalpoondurai markets carried out by AMI & BPC, the Centre for Agricultural and Rural Development Studies (CARDS), Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, the advisory said price of coconut would be lower by one or three rupees in other markets in comparison to Pollachi market.

The price of coconut is ruling around Rs. 28,500 a tonne in Pollachi market, accounting for approximately Rs.16 to Rs. 17 a nut for average size weighing 550 to 660 grams.

Current arrivals from Tamil Nadu have commenced and arrivals from Kerala and Karnataka will begin from February first week onwards.

The good monsoon would boost coconut production in forthcoming months.

Currently, copra is ruling at Rs. 96 to Rs. 98 a kg in Avalpoondurai regulated market in Tamil Nadu.

India is the third largest coconut producer after Indonesia and Philippines. In 2013-14, coconut was cultivated on an area of 2.15 million hectares with a production of 16.56 million tonnes of nuts.

In 2012-13, coconut was mainly cultivated on 83,341 hectares of land in Coimbatore, 53,661 hectares in Tirupur, 34,747 hectares in Thanjavur, 29,932 hectares in Dindigul, 24,502 hectares in Kanyakumari, 22,720 hectares in Vellore, 19,967 hectares in Theni, 15,834 hectares in Krishnagiri and 15,806 hectares in Tirunelveli, the price advisory said.

## **Chinese students visit Coimbatore as part of learning programme**

A group of students from a Chinese school spent a week in the city as part of an experiential learning programme (ELP) for Indo-Chinese kids.

Hosted by the Nikita International School of Studies here, the students were from the Peking University Affiliated High School (PKUAHS), Beijing. Their school had approached a couple of Indian educators, who initiated the ELP named Cultural Exposure and Community Service in South India at PKUAHS.

Five high school students (four Chinese nationals and an Indian national) Liang Yuwen, Wang Yilin, Zheng Xiangyu, Li Ziyao and Nagarajan Mukilmathi spent a week with the students of Nikita International School

Chairman of Nikita International School, S. Thangavelu, says eight volunteers from Grade IX and XI from the school accompanied them during the trip which lasted from February 1 to 8.

A variety of co-scholastic activities were scheduled to give an exposure to the South Indian culture, agriculture, cooking, textiles, arts and crafts, besides games, religion and language.

The students visited the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University where they had hands-on experience in traditional Indian farming techniques. Later, they were taken to a knitting factory. They also visited the handloom and power loom units. The kids also met sculptors at Thirumurugan Poondi in Tirupur.

The kids were excited to play traditional games at a local community school and learnt the essential terms of greeting in Tamil and Chinese. Mr. Thangavel says, “This cultural proximity will continue with Nikita International School students visiting the dragon land soon.”

## **Farm ponds idea a hit with farmers**

The programme for construction of farm ponds in the lands of small, tiny and Adi Dravida farmers implemented by the State Government through the District Rural Development Agency has evoked good response in Namakkal district.

The farm ponds will be constructed free of cost by the DRDA on the private lands with the objective of conserving the rain water, which in turn will improve the groundwater level besides improving the water position in the open wells and borewells in their vicinity.

It was targeted to construct 2,254 farm ponds in the district and applications were called for. Small, tiny and Adi Dravida farmers submitted their applications for the digging of farm ponds in their farms. After scrutiny of the applications, a total of 1,546 farm ponds were sanctioned and the works also commenced.

A total of 861 farm ponds have already been set up in the private lands, V. Dakshinamoorthy, said while addressing the farmers’ grievances day meeting recently.

Farmers interested in submitting fresh applications under this scheme can approach and register their names at the nearby block agricultural extension centres or the block development offices.



The State Government has accorded priority for the modernisation of agricultural farms and is providing modern equipment at subsidised rate and advanced agricultural technology. Under the National Agricultural Development Programme, the farmers can apply to the State Agricultural Engineering Department for getting the farm equipment at subsidised rate during the current year. The farmers can handover the demand draft deducting the subsidy at the offices of the executive engineer, Agricultural Engineering Department, Namakkal or Tiruchengode. The department will provide the supply orders to the companies of the farmers' choice, Mr. Dakshinamoorthy said.

## **Integrated dairy units yielding good results**

The integrated dairy units launched by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (Nabard) in association with Karimnagar Milk Producer Company Limited and the Telangana Grameena Bank with the support of Indo-German Water Development Programme (IGWDP) in the watershed areas is yielding good results with steady increase of milk production in Karimnagar district.

The dairy unit project was experimentally launched in six villages of Kodimial, Sircilla, Vemulawada, Koheda and Konaraopeta mandals of the district in October 2014.

The authorities had distributed milching animals to 60 beneficiaries in the first phase.

The Nabard had extended financial assistance of Rs 50,000, a subsidy of Rs 25,000 was provided by IGWDP and Rs 25,000 contribution was made by the beneficiary.

The Nabard had also assisted the beneficiaries in the selection of best animals.

The Nabard officials had also granted Rs 3,000 each to the beneficiary to take up fodder cultivation in around 10 guntas of land for the animals.

Similarly, the Karimnagar Dairy had also provided Rs.1,500 grant for raising fodder. The dairy officials had also provided Rs. 1,000 each to the farmers to raise Azola, a mineral food for the milching animals.

In order to further empower and educate the beneficiaries about the need for increasing the milk production, the Nabard in association with IGWDP had conducted a training programme for the milk producers at Karimnagar dairy on Tuesday.

During this training programme, the milk producers were empowered about the animal insurance, fodder cultivation and Azola, clean milk production, taking care of cattle, etc.

### **Overwhelming response**

Talking to *The Hindu*, Nabard AGM R. Ravi Babu said that there was overwhelming response to the integrated dairy units.

The small initiative made was ensuring a steady increase in the milk production with the active participation of the beneficiaries.

He said that they were planning to integrate with the Nedcap to start biogas plants for all the beneficiaries to show that the dairy units were more beneficial.

Mr. Ravi Babu said that the Nabard would further expand the programme and launch a new white revolution in Karimnagar district by increasing the milk production.



### **Ensure resources to developing nations on climate change: India**

As the global community readies to adopt an ambitious post-2015 development agenda, India has highlighted the importance of ensuring enhanced resources to developing countries to combat climate change.

“It is important to ensure that the enhanced provision of resources to developing countries for climate change and environmental concerns is additional and not at the cost of traditional development finance.”

“The present double counting of climate finance with Official Development Assistance (ODA) is a matter of concern,” counsellor in the Indian Mission to the UN Amit Narang said.

Even though ODA levels have regrettably declined, this does not diminish their relevance and ODA would remain relevant and important in the post-2015 period, he said, adding that much of the recent discourse has focused on the insufficiency and declining role of ODA.

“In fact the broader agenda envisaged under the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)s would require ODA levels to be enhanced and scaled up,”

Narang said in the General Assembly debate on ‘Means of Implementation for a Transformative Post-2015 Development Agenda’ yesterday.

He said the organisation of Financing for Development Conference in Addis Ababa in July this year is a welcome opportunity to enrich global efforts to forge an ambitious set of ‘means’ for implementing the agenda.

“The linkage between the Post-2015 and Financing for Development processes must be seen through the lens of ‘complementarity’. The objective of the Financing for Development Conference is not to replace the Means of Implementation segment under the Post-2015 Development Agenda, but to complement it,” Narang said.

He said the broader and integrated development template of the SDG will require an integrated and comprehensive financing strategy to ensure the provision of additional, predictable and stable flows of resources to developing countries.

Narang noted that the starting point for forging a revitalised global partnership must be to draw lessons from the implementation of Millennium Development Goals, where the key failures included a lack of integration and synergy between the substantive goals and the Global Partnership framework.

An excessive reliance on donor-recipient framework to the detriment of systemic issues for boosting growth and a complete absence of monitoring and accountability of the global partnership against agreed targets and indicators.

For South-South cooperation to live up to its potential, it must be allowed to grow under its own impetus, he said.

“It can neither be expected to meet the shortfall in nor should it be straitjacketed in terms of rigid rules or policy prescriptions derived from North-South aid,” he said.

## THE HINDU Business Line

### **Govt policy decisions hold key for sugar revival**

With sugar being regulated across the value chain, the pricing and marketing mainly depend on government policies.

According to the regulations, sugar mills have to purchase cane at a fair and remunerative price (FRP) from farmers and compulsorily crush for sugar production. In India, the government decides the sugarcane floor price, also known as the FRP, which has to be paid mandatorily by sugar mills to farmers within 15 days of the commencement of crushing. Thus, mills do not have any control on cane pricing as well as on the quantity of sugar produced.

#### **Oversupply of sugar**

According to the latest estimate by the Indian Sugar Mills Association (ISMA), mills are expected to produce a record 26 million tonnes (mt) of sugar in the 2014-15 season to September in addition to 7.5 mt stocks carried over from the last season.

This is the fifth consecutive year that the country has produced excess sugar. Until January, mills had produced 13.5 mt – 15 per cent more than last year. Mills are aggressively selling sugar in the domestic market to clear dues to sugarcane growers. Overselling by mills and negligible exports have resulted in prices plunging to four-year lows.

So far, this year, prices on the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange (NCDEX) have dropped by more than 4.3 per cent on ample supplies and low export demand.

Since 2011, prices have fallen over 11 per cent from Rs. 3,000 a quintal to Rs. 2,700 levels. During the same period, prices have declined by 27 per cent from the high of Rs. 3,600 touched in August 2012. Meanwhile, FRP has increased by 37 per cent to Rs. 220 a quintal in 2014-15 from Rs. 139 in 2010-11.

#### **Policy support impact**

In the past, the government would offer policy support to the sugar sector to tackle the glut by raising the import duty on sugar, offer interest-free loans to sugar factories to clear cane

dues, eliminate levy obligation and regulate monthly sugar release for free market sale, besides providing export incentives.

In February last year, the government announced a sugar subsidy scheme, wherein raw sugar exports up to 4 mt would enable the exporter to receive a subsidy of Rs. 3,300 a tonne. The subsidy was last revised to Rs. 3,371 for the August-September period.

During that period, about one million tonnes of raw sugar and 2.1 mt of white sugar were exported, which stabilised the sugar prices well over Rs. 3,000.

Currently, the country is sitting on a huge stock of sugar and needs to ship about 1.5-2 mt to help millers pay the arrears to farmers on time and repay loans to the banks.

The industry is seeking assistance from the government to tackle the situation arising out of surplus sugar. The government is considering subsidy on raw sugar exports for the ongoing marketing year.

### **Pending decision**

For the current year, even though the Food Minister has approved a proposal to increase the export subsidy on raw sugar to Rs. 4,000 a tonne, the Cabinet is yet to approve the plan.

Sugar mills are getting increasingly anxious as only 2-3 months remain for the crushing operations to come to a halt.

If at all the subsidy is announced, sugar mills have to plan for raw sugar production for exporting to the stand-alone refineries in Asia and Africa at competitive prices.

India might have to compete with Brazil and Thailand if the subsidy decision is delayed further. Exports from Brazil are expected to start from April and Thailand is ready to export sugar.

### **Price outlook**

Any policy change in Brazil, India and Thailand will affect prices in the global sugar market. Recently, a rise in fuel tax in Brazil increased the demand for ethanol as fuel, reducing sugar output.

Similarly, export subsidy in India will help clear stockpiles by exporting sugar at more competitive prices.

There is still hope that additional policy decisions such as increase in the import duty, creating buffer stocks, ethanol blending in petrol and price hikes in ration shops would buoy sugar prices from the current level of Rs. 2,660 a quintal for the active March contract.

The writer is Associate Director-Commodities & Currencies, Angel Commodities Broking Pvt Ltd. Views are personal.

# Business Standard

Odisha to put Rs 10,655 cr for agriculture

## **Odisha would present an exclusive Budget for the agriculture sector for the third consecutive time in 2015-16**

The state government would allocate Rs 10,654.87 crore in the [Agriculture Budget](#) for 2015-16, which is 11.6 per cent higher than Rs 9,542.22 crore earmarked in 2014-15.

Odisha would present an exclusive Budget for the agriculture sector for the third consecutive time in 2015-16. The state government had unveiled a separate Budget for the agriculture and allied services for the first time in 2013-14, making it only the second state after Karnataka to have a Budget dedicated to the farm sector.

In his address to the state legislative assembly, Odisha Governor S C Jamir said, the state is poised to register its highest ever food grain production of 12 million tonne this year. Several schemes launched by the government to enhance the socio-economic status of the farming community like Biju Krushak Yojana and Jananidhi have started delivering results, he claimed.

The state's overall Budget for 2015-16 may cross Rs 90,000 crore, meaning a growth of 12 per cent over Rs 80,139 crore Budget in 2014-15.

The state's Annual Plan for 2015-16 is pegged at Rs 40,000 crore inclusive of resources of Rs 36,000 crore for the government sector and Rs 4,000 crore for the public sector undertakings (PSUs) in the power utility space. In 2014-15, the Annual Plan was estimated at Rs 40,810 crore including PSU allocation of Rs 2,000 crore as per original Budget Estimates (BE). But the Plan size has been scaled down to Rs 35,000 crore in the revised estimates (RE) for the year since the state government expects Rs 3,723.31 crore shortfall in central assistance and Rs 2,000 crore less mobilisation from the state's own revenue collection target.

In 2015-16, the state's own tax revenue is to take a hit of Rs 1,500 crore due to the commissioning of the 15 million tonne per annum oil refinery of Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL). The state government had allowed the oil major deferred payment of value added tax (VAT) for a period of 11 years from the date of commissioning of the refinery.

Though the state government has not resorted to open market borrowings since 2006-07, it has projected such borrowing of Rs 7,501.31 crore for the next fiscal.

The borrowing from the National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development (Nabard) is projected at Rs 2,000 crore for financing projects under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF). Resources for externally aided projects have been estimated at Rs 2,275 crore.